

CLAIMS

1. A composition for preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, characterized in that said composition is an orally administrable composition containing L-arginine as an active ingredient.

2. The composition of Claim 1 for preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, characterized in that said composition is orally administered in an amount of from 1 to 30 g a day per adult in terms of L-arginine.

3. The composition of Claim 1 or 2 for preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, characterized in that said disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction is a cerebral apoplexy-like episode of MELAS or a warning symptom thereof.

4. The composition of Claim 3 for preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, characterized in that said warning symptom of a cerebral apoplexy-like episode is scintillating scotoma.

5. The composition of any one of Claim 1-4 for preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, characterized in that said composition contains, in addition to L-arginine, another mitochondrial function adjuvant such as a different amino acid,

vitamin and the like and/or nitric oxide-releasing agent.

6. The composition of any one of Claim 1-5 for preventing and/or treating the expression of clinical symptoms in a disease caused by mitochondrial dysfunction, characterized in that said composition contains, as an active ingredient, L-arginine in the free form and L-arginine in its monohydrochloride form in combination.